

Dan and Martha Cover's Pond

May 1, 2011, 3:00.



4905 N Via Entrada
Tucson, AZ 85718
Address Service Requested



Dan and Martha Cover's Pond

2841 W Puccini

297-4071

May 1, 2011, 3:00.

From Ina, South on Shannon, East on Puccini to Address.

Please contact Brent VanKoevering at 780-3980 or Bob Panter if you are interested in hosting a meeting. Membership dues are past due. Please send them to Martha Cover, if you have not already. Or you can pay at the meeting.

Martha Cover
2841 W Puccini
Tucson, AZ 85741

SAKA, Inc Club Officers

President	Bob Panter sakabob@yahoo.com (520) 747-7278
Vice President	David Young koiman@mindspring.com (520) 682-7697
Secretary	Lynn Riley (520) 825-9066
Treasurer	Dan and Martha Cover mardan79@msn.com (520) 297-4071

Committees/Points of Contact

2010 Pond Tour	Jeanmarie Schiller Tucsonpondtour@yahoo.com (520) 299-1876
31st Koi Show Co-Chairperson(s)	Bob Panter and Jeanmarie Schiller
AKCA Representative	Debby Young debbyt@akca.org (520) 682-7697
Newsletter Editor	Brent VanKoevering bvankoevering@longrealty.com (520) 780-3980
Koi Health Advisor	Noel Shaw koidoc@noelshawdc.com (520) 400-0335
Membership Chairperson	Faye Hall (520) 297-1253
Raffle Chairpersons	Jeanmarie Schiller crankyjean@msn.com (520) 299-1876
Education Committee	Erin Riley elriley@aol.com (520) 818-6490
Librarian	Jeanmarie Schiller crankyjean@msn.com (520) 299-1876

Editor's Note: Articles published herein are intended for the enjoyment of all and come from a variety of sources. The articles are not intended to replace veterinary advice. Pond owners, and not the club, are responsible for the health of their koi, water changes, what to do, and how to treat their pond. Reasonable effort is made to review these articles for accuracy before including them in the newsletter.

Presidents Corner

4-26-11

A BIG welcome to all of our new members, the Southern Arizona Koi Association, Inc. welcomes you one and all to our family. We are a non-profit, charitable organization, helping young and old alike through Nishiki Koi, and its culture.

Our meetings are to be of an educational manner and a portion to business. We come together to share ideas and to get a better understanding of brotherhood through a common interest.

Just think in one week is our Pond Tour 2011. I hope all can attend or help out at various pond sites. This should be quite the tour. There are many excellent ponds to see and enjoy. With many of the pond keepers on hand you will be able to educate yourself as to how they make their ponds work and operate. Everyone please come out and enjoy this tour. Give a hand where you can, and this will be one of the best pond tours ever.

Summer is on its way. This means you need to check the quality of your water and check your koi each time you are at the pond. See how they swim and move in the water. Are they with other koi and they by themselves? Is your water clear or not so clear? Do you have a lot of algae? Come to the meeting and you can find answers to these questions.

For the love of Koi,

Bob Panter, President SAKA, Inc.

SAKA, Inc 10% Discount

With your SAKA, Inc Membership Card at:

Boyd Equipment Center

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Tucson, AZ
(520) 792-2244 or
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E. Benson Highway, Tucson AZ
(520) 294-0748

Club Meetings

Hosting Meetings: For those wishing to host an upcoming business/education meeting, the club will reimburse the host up to \$50 (with receipts) toward food/beverage for the meeting. **We would like to see your pond!** Please contact Bob Panter if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

Club Announcements

February Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March, 2011 SAKA Meeting as prepared by Jeanmarie Schiller-McGinnis in the absence of Lynn Riley, secretary:

Meeting was held at the home of Frances Case on March 27, 2011. Prior to the normal meeting, Debby Young gave a presentation on using salt in koi ponds as a springtime tonic.

Bob called the meeting to order at approximately 3:45 pm.

Treasurer's Report by Martha: Savings \$5,189.95 Checking \$11,852.96 Also, final budget will be submitted with next month's minutes.

No correspondence was received since last meeting.

AKCA Report by Debby: AKCA Board Candidates were discussed and voted on.

Pond Tour Report by Jeanmarie: Will be held on May 14 & 15. Tickets will be on sale at the usual landscape centers and will be \$5 each. Volunteers are needed to sit at some ponds and provide club information. Flyers were handed out to the members present to help promote the tour.

Koi Show Report by Brent: Brent will be chairperson, but needs a group of people to help organize.

Bob reported that the club was invited to bring koi to the PC Fair; however, we'll need volunteers to make this happen.

A motion was made and passed to donate \$1 from each Pond Tour ticket sale to the Japanese Red Cross for earthquake relief.

Dave presented a koi quiz and gave away prizes that were donated by Sharon Faulk.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30pm.

Featured Articles

GREEN WATER AND STRING ALGAE

Green water and string algae are different forms of algae. Both can cause considerable problems for ponds through out the year. Green water differs from string algae in that it cannot be physically removed from the pond; whereas string algae are stringy or hair like, and can be physically removed.

What Causes Green Water?

Green water is caused by the presence of millions of microscopic algae particles, each consisting of one cell. This algae occurs naturally in almost all bodies of water, and can be a problem in ponds during the spring and summer months. In order to grow, algae requires light and nutrients. An excess of either can result in heavy growth and very green water. The nutrients required for algae to grow are normally nitrate and phosphate. Green water is normally worse during summer months when days are longer, temperatures are warmer, and light is stronger. These factors greatly increase the rate at which green water can occur.

What Causes String Algae?

String algae occurs naturally in almost all bodies of water and is encouraged to grow by the presence of phosphate, nitrate and sunlight. Phosphate is a vital component of fish foods and therefore enters the water through uneaten food and fish waste. Nitrate is produced as the end product of the biological filtration and through the natural breakdown of organic matter in the pond. Nutrient concentrations tend to build up in the pond over time particularly in the summer when the fish are more active and being well fed. The increased sunlight plus these increased nutrient levels dramatically accelerate the growth of string algae with some species being capable of doubling its weight each day or two.

Steps for Avoiding Green Water and String Algae Problems

There are a number of pond management techniques that can be called upon to help reduce the growth of algae:

- First, you should feed your fish only high quality fish food. Poor quality diets are not well digested by the fish, resulting in excess waste being produced that contribute greatly to a high nutrient load into the pond. This excess of nutrients will stimulate an increased growth of both types of algae.
- Adding plants to the pond can also help limit the growth of algae, since aquatic plants compete with the algae for the nutrients in the pond water. Water lilies in particular are great for this purpose, since their leaves help cover the ponds surface and shut out much of the sunlight required to stimulate the growth of algae.
- Keep the pond bottom clean and clear of sediment. Decaying of this sediment increases the nutrient load for stimulating the growth of algae.

Controlling Green Water

The most effective way to control green water is the addition of ultraviolet sterilizers (U.V. lights) to the pond water circulation system. These devices work by irradiating the pond water that flows through them with ultraviolet light. This ultraviolet light kills green water algae, allowing it to clump together, so that it can be separated from pond water by a filter. This is an excellent method of keeping a pond free from green water year around. It is important to size the ultraviolet light correctly, as its effectiveness depends on the contact time between the light and the water passing through. In general, an ultraviolet light should support a flow rate that allows the pond total water volume to pass through the light every hour. U.V. bulbs should be replaced every 12 months of bulb life even if they are still burning at that time. U.V. bulbs lose their efficiency over time and become less effective after 12 months life. The quartz sleeve containing the bulb may need cleaning periodically. If the sleeve gets exceptionally dirty, it will cut down on the amount of ultraviolet light effectiveness.

There are other means of removing green water if you do not have an ultraviolet light. These methods are more temporary. There are many products on the market for adding to pond water to remove green water algae. One I will mention is called AlgaeFix. This product when added, as directed to your pond water, causes the green water algae to clump, so it can be filtered out with a pond filter, or can be skimmed off the water surface with a skimmer net.

The addition of aquatic plants to compete with the algae for nutrients, and to shade the pond to deprive algae of essential light are two natural means of reducing the green water effect. A large water change will remove green water temporarily; however it returns rather rapidly.

Controlling String Algae.

The most effective way of removing string algae is by mechanical means; however this method is distasteful to most people. Again, there are numerous products on the market that will kill string algae. AlgaeFix does a very effective job of killing string algae and eliminating green water when used as directed on the container. Other products containing sodium percarbonate are very effective on string algae in very shallow water, like streams and waterfalls.

Numerous plants in the pond will reduce algae by competing for nourishment from pond water. The addition of shade over the pond will decrease the growth of string algae, since it deprives it of needed sunlight in order to thrive. After the string algae are killed, you will need to remove the floating dead algae from the pond.

Chlorine, Chloramine, and Water Changes

Chlorine:

Chlorine (Cl) measured in parts per million (ppm) is a gas which has been added to tap water to control harmful bacteria. City provided tap water has been found to have from 0.5 to 3.0 ppm, but higher surges are sometimes observed. El Paso Water Works add approximately 1.5 ppm chlorine to city tap water.

Chlorine is a quick killer of koi in small amounts (less than 0.5 ppm). Even in very small concentrations, chlorine burns the edges of their gills and causes long term ill effects. Chlorine is deadly to biological converter bacteria. Do not use tap water to clean your biological converter media. It will kill the good bacteria. Use either pond water or water that has been de-chlorinated.

An open container of water (such as a pond) will lose approximately 1/4 of its chlorine per day to the air. Remember, chlorine is a gas and it gradually dissipates to the atmosphere from the water. Using this reasoning, a newly filled pond will lose its chlorine in 4 to 5 days after filling. If you are making a water change or adding make up water to your pond, you do not have the luxury of waiting 5 days before the fish are exposed to the chlorine.

Treatment is simple but very essential. Pond owners should have de-chlorinator on hand at all times for water changes and for emergencies. De-chlorinator can be purchased at most pet and fish supply stores for about \$9.95 per quart. Another option is to make your own de-chlorinator. This is easily done by purchasing 500 grams of Sodium Thiosulfate crystals from the Denco for \$6.00. When added to a gallon of water, this concentration provides enough de-chlorinator to treat 38,000 gallons. One ounce treats 300 gallons of chlorinated water.

When treating ponds after a water change, treat it only for the number of gallons you add, not the entire pond volume. Adding too much de-chlorinator is not detrimental to the fish. Adding too little may not get the job done. Add the de-chlorinator to the pond before adding tap water.

There are several test kits on the market for testing chlorine levels. Chemical droplet and pill test kits are available. The recommended test kit range for chlorine is 0 to 4 ppm. If de-chlorinator is used religiously when adding water to ponds, a test is not considered a necessity.

Chloramine:

Chloramine is a compound of chlorine and ammonia that is added to some city tap water to kill harmful bacteria. Chloramine is not used in El Paso water, so I will not spend much time on this subject. When chloramines laden tap water is added to a pond, it adds both chlorine and free ammonia to the water. Adding de-chlorinator will remove the chlorine, but not the ammonia. A good efficient bio converter will remove the ammonia in short time. Do not add water with chloramine to a pond that is already showing a concentration of ammonia. This will raise the ammonia level, possibly to a toxic level for your fish. If you have chloramine in your tap water and water is added to your pond, the accepted remedies are products called Amquil and Ammo Lock 2. These products eliminate chlorine and turns toxic ammonia into a non-toxic ammonia, which is not harmful to fish. Since it does not eliminate the ammonia, testing of the pond water will show positive for ammonia.

Water Changes:

Partial water changes can reduce the amount of anything dissolved in the pond water, but not remove it entirely. Although it is sometimes necessary, draining the pond entirely and refilling should be done as a last resort. Remember, water changes reduce the “good stuff” in the pond as well as the “bad stuff”. Pond water is swarming with microscopic bacteria. The good bacteria are necessary for a healthy pond, so we don’t want to get rid of it all through a total water change. Under ideal conditions, bacteria will reproduce rather rapidly.

It is considered beneficial to make a weekly 10% water change. Ponds smaller than 5000 gallons should make a 10% water change weekly, and ponds in excess of 5000 gallons should make at least a 5% weekly water change. Why do we need to make water changes? Many components build up in the water over time, and this is the only way to reduce them. Experienced koi keepers know that their koi are healthier and stronger when regular water changes are made. Any water removed in the process of back flushing pond filters is considered a part of the water change.

When adding make up water for a water change, don’t forget to add de-chlorinator prior to adding tap water to the pond. When adding water from a hose, spray the water on the surface of the pond. This will add oxygen to the water while filling. Don’t fill the pond with the hose end submerged in the pond. This only stirs up things that have settled to the bottom. Don’t forget to turn off the water. You don’t want your pond to run over. Remember, tap water contains little or no oxygen. Aeration of the tap water added to the pond is recommended, especially if the water change is 50% or greater.

Don Harrawood
Koi Health Advisor
Southwest Koi and Pond Association.

SOUTHERN AZ KOI ASSOCIATION'S



2011

GARDEN POND TOUR

May 14 & 15

9am-4pm each day

Tickets \$5 each

**children under 13
free with paid adult**

**A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF
PRIVATE KOI PONDS & WATER GARDENS
IN AND AROUND THE TUCSON AREA**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: Civano Nursery,
Green Things, Harlow's, Magic Gardens
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Plants & More, Rillito Nursery, Sheldon's
Nursery, Tohono Chul Park, Tucson Botani-
cal Gardens & Mtn. View Koi (in Hereford)



**More info at:
www.sakoia.org
(520) 390-0879**

tucsonpondtour@yahoo.com

Tickets will be on sale NOW and will be available at the next meeting.

Kawarigoi Korner



If you have suggestions for the newsletter or items to be included in Karawagoi Corner or the Calendar, Please contact Brent VanKoevering at 520.780.3980 or bvankoevering@longrealty.com.

Upcoming SAKA Education and Business Meetings

Date	Location
May 22, 2011	Noel and Debbie Shaw
June 26, 2011	Sandy and Joe Shiflet
July 24, 2011	Michael and Carol Herndon
August 28, 2011	Curt and Lisa Ogren. Mountain View Koi.
September 25, 2011	
October 23, 2011	
November	No Meeting. See you at the Show.
December	

Shows, Pond Tours and Seminars

Event	Dates/Location/Links
November 11-13, 2011	Annual SAKA Koi Show Sam Lena Park



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<http://www.sakoia.org>
 Annual Membership

Dues are \$30.00 per family from March 1 to February 28 or 29 of the next year.

Membership Type

___ Renewal
 ___ New Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail _____

Today's Date: _____

of Koi _____

Years Keeping Koi: _____

Pond size: _____

Would you like to host a meeting?

Would you like to serve on a committee?

___ If yes which one?

Make Checks payable to: SAKA, Inc.

Mail to: Martha and Dan Cover
 2841 W. Puccini Place
 Tucson, AZ 85741